
Disasters Hot Off the Press

Newspaper Style Book Report Lesson

Learning Objectives

- Students will construct appropriate headlines for given articles
- Students will write articles when given a headline
- Students will identify the most important points of a book and write a newspaper article outlining those points
- Students will identify and write about the connection between their book and emergency preparedness
- Students will write a newspaper article with a beginning, middle and end.

Preparation

Note- this lesson can be done in written form with the product being newspaper articles, OR written drafts of students orally communicating TV commercials for their books (requires video taping students). Instructor compiles appropriate handouts (for example, starting out with an attention getter, answering the 5 W's in writing, using quotes, summing it up, etc) to guide students with writing process and differences in writing a newspaper article as opposed to a more detailed, less attention grabbing summary. Instructor types and prints fake newspaper article with headline 'Free \$100 For Everyone' and one with 'Local Benefactor to Help People Out'. Print out handout: <http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/english/newshead.htm>

Pre-Assessment

Have students write an example of a topic for a newspaper article from a book the class has read and list some examples of newspaper headlines for the topic.

Introduction

Hold up an article that has the headline, 'Free \$100 For Everyone' and read it aloud, with excitement. "Who wants to read more about that? I know I would! And probably so would a lot of other people. Now, how about this one?" Put a new headline on the same article that says 'Local Benefactor to Help People Out'. "Would you want to read that? I'm not too sure that I would. But they're both headlines for the same article. So you see, choosing your words wisely is very important in the newspaper biz. Well, today, we're going to try our hand at writing newspaper articles and a headline that will really make people want to read it. We're going to do a little bit of practice first, and then your articles will be based on a book that you read today that is about disaster planning, so you have your work cut out for you. But I know you can do it!"

Procedure

Have newspaper articles for each group of students. Ask them to choose an article they would like to read. After they have read it, ask why they chose that article. Was it the headline? Read over the headline handout. Have students come up with a short article based on various headlines.

Have students choose a book from the student reading list (see page 17) or assign books to students by reading level. Allocate time or assign for homework for students to read their books.

Students will write an article for a newspaper, by using what they learned. They will choose a key point, event, or topic. Ask students to have the following components in their newspaper articles:

- An attention grabbing headline
- What the book is about
- Who the main character is
- What emergency or disaster is outlined in the book
- What you would do if you were stuck in that emergency (tip- what have you learned about emergencies?)

Once all students have gone through at least 1 editing and revision phase and have final drafts, compile all the articles into a classwide newspaper that can be distributed to everyone in the class or via a class/parent newsletter or website.

Closing & Assessment

All students will receive copies or access to the final class newspaper that has been created.